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I'm off for Charlestown

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I'm off for Charlestown.

My massa and my missus dey am both
gone away,
Dey am gone to de sulphur spring, de
summer month to stay;
And while dey are off together on a lit-
tle kind of spree,
I'll go down to Charleston, de yaller
gals to see.

CHORUS

I'm off for Charleston, so early in de
morning,
I'm off for Charleston, a little while to
stay,
Gib my respects to every pretty yaller
gal,
I'm off for Charleston, afore de brake
of day;

My Nelly waved her handkerchief,
when she seen me go,
Floating down de river on de old Ohio.
As I stood and gazed upon her, I wiped
away a tear,
And de last words I said to her, was
"Fare you well, my dear."

It began to rain a little, de night was
berry dark,
And when my nelly said "Good bye,"
de dogs began to bark;
The buzzard chased de possum, and
de possum chased de coon,
And dey all made his darkey run 'till
the next day afternoon.

De possum he got tired, an' de coon he
tired too,
Dis nigger got so tired till he didn't
know what to do,
De buzzard kept flying till de chicken
'gin to crow,
Den dey all come down to hear me
play de old banjo.

Charlestown is a pretty place, de gals
de dress so neat,
Dey are so slender 'bout de waist, and
kiss so very sweet;
But I'd rather kiss my Nelly, den all
de gals I eber see,
Cause her breff is like an orange blos-
som, hanging on a tree.